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Ex Parte

April 22, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton Acting Secretary Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Meeting, GC Docket 96-42

Dear Mr. Caton:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Earlier today, representatives of the Telecommunications Industry Association ("TIA") met with Jim Casserly, Senior Legal Advisor to Commission Ness, to discuss issues pertaining to the above-referenced proceeding. The meeting was attended by Tom Cohen, outside counsel to the TIA, and the undersigned.

During the meeting, Mr. Cohen and I discussed with Mr. Casserly the legislative history of the alternative dispute resolution provision (Section 273 (d)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996), the relationship between vendors and their customers and agents of their customers, and the need for the Commission to focus on developing a fair and workable alternative dispute resolution mechanism rather than extraneous issues, i.e., defining the term "funding party", which have been raised by some parties. Mr. Cohen and I suggested that the Corning proposal submitted to the Commission on April 17, 1996, would provide a practical means of resolving disputes between a disputing party and a non-accredited standards development organization. We also raised with Mr. Casserly the possibility that the decision of a mediation panel might not need to be subject to any type of override vote, since funding parties are, and presumably will remain, free to set their own requirements for the equipment they procure.

Sincerely,

Jot D. Carpenter, Jr.

Vice President, Government Relations

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jot D. Carpenter, Jr., certify that this 22nd day of April, 1996, I mailed, First Class mail postage prepaid, copies of the foregoing letter in response to *ex parte* filings of Corning, Inc., and Bell Communications Research, Inc., in GC Docket No. 96-42 to the following:

William F. Caton, Acting Secretary Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, D.C. 20554

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Jot D. Carpenter, Jr.

April 22, 1996

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